

Dear Mr. Roberson:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission (MRC) during the public meeting held in Tiptonville, Tennessee, on August 18, 2003. In your statement you addressed the culvert replacements at Fritz Landing and Highway 22 (Harris Ditch/Graveyard Slough); riprap placement west of Mooring, Tennessee; the Tiptonville Levee Extension; Reelfoot Lake; the proposed harbor at Cates Landing (also known as the Northwest Tennessee Harbor); and vegetative growth in Running Reelfoot Bayou.

The hydraulic analysis for the Fritz Landing culverts has been completed and is currently being reviewed by the Memphis District to determine if there is authority under the Mississippi River Levees project to replace the culvert. The Memphis District will inform you of the results of their review and the next actions to be taken regarding the Fritz Landing culverts.

Significant progress has been made on the Harris Ditch culverts, also known as Graveyard Slough, despite delays due to unfavorable weather and river conditions. Construction is scheduled for completion early in the 2004 construction season.

Regarding the Mooring, Tennessee, levee rock cover, the Commission agrees that this is a well-constructed project that will improve the levee maintenance capabilities of the Lake County Levee and Drainage District. This work was completed in September, including turfing.

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The Commission is aware of the interior flooding problem at Tiptonville. The Memphis District is currently investigating options to relieve the flooding problem, including the use of portable pumps and the construction of a small permanent pumping station to evacuate floodwaters. The Memphis District will keep you informed of the progress of the investigation.

As you are aware, the Reelfoot Lake project includes a new spillway and other features that would significantly improve the condition of the lake. The project is authorized for construction; however, funding for new start construction has not been included in the President's recent budget requests. The U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers is not authorized to begin construction on this project until new start construction funds are appropriated.

Continuation of the Northwest Tennessee Regional Harbor study has been approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. The Memphis District's schedule for completion of the draft report is June 2004.

Since the MRC public meeting, Memphis District staff met with the sponsor of Running Reelfoot Bayou. The Corps has no authority to rehabilitate the bayou to its original design or to perform maintenance; however, members of the Memphis District will continue to work with you to identify possible solutions.

The Commission appreciates receiving your comments and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Don T. Riley
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President Designee, Mississippi
River Commission